Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Winter 1990 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 6, No. 1



Some of the participants at the October 6-7, 1989, conference on **"Cyprus: Domestic Dynamics and External Constraints"**: (left to right) **Dr. Christos Ioannides**, director of the S.B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism in Sacramento; **His Excellency Patroklos Stavrou**, Undersecretary to the President of Cyprus and keynote speaker at the conference; **Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris**, director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies.



The **Honorable Constantin Yerocostopoulos**, Consul General of Greece, welcomes the audience. The conference, planned and sponsored by the S.B. Vryonis Center and the Center for Modern Greek Studies with the cooperation of of several institutes and centers of UC Berkeley, drew approximately 100 people, and covered a broad spectrum of political and socio-economic aspects of present-day Cyprus.

Herbert Waltl in Concert on March 14

"Waltl Plays Waltl" is a special evening program featuring compositions for piano and synthesizer by **Herbert Waltl**, Kazantzakis Chair composer-in-residence. At the event, to be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 1990, at San Francisco's Cowell Theater in Fort Mason, Waltl will perform his most recent work, including "Aphrodite's Child," a homage to Odysseus' companions, "Lethe (Forgetfulness)," "Maelstrom," and "Mem." Waltl has already completed his oratorio "Antipolis," based on Kazantzakis' *The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel* (with libretto derived from Kimon Friar's masterful English translation).

The 33-year-old Waltl was born in Munich, West Germany. Although his musical education began at age six, he did not decide to pursue a career as a classical pianist until he was 18. He specialized in Beethoven, performing on both radio and television, but as he matured musically he explored new media and technology, such as electroacoustic music, and the harmonic compatibility of different musical forms and media. In the upcoming program, for instance, Waltl will use a spatial sound system, where sound is projected in a

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Announcements



Dr. John Cambus

Modern Greek Studies Foundation 1st Vice President **Dr. John Cambus** has been elected president of the Hellenic American Professional Society of Northern California, succeeding Anastasia Condas. Both the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies extend their hearty congratulations to Prof. Cambus!

* * *

Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris, director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, has been granted a sabbatical leave from S.F. State University for the Spring 1990 semester. During most of his leave time, he will be conducting research on Nikos Kazantzakis in Crete.

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The annual meeting of the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation Board of Directors** will take place on Wednesday, January 31, 1990, 7:30 p.m., at the San Francisco Press Club, 555 Post St. in downtown San Francisco. The Board will consider fundraising plans for the Kazantzakis Chair endowment, future events, and welcome several new members to the Board.

Modern Greek Studies Courses
Spring 1990

GRE 251	**Modern Greek II** (2nd semester) Instructor: Effie Kalafatis	MWF 12-1 Hum. Bldg. 341
GRE 470	**Advanced Modern Greek IV** Instructor: Effie Kalafatis	MWF 2-3 Hum. Bldg. 341

Class begins on Jan. 29. Non-University students are welcome to enroll. For details, please call the Classics Department at 415-338-2068.



A symposium on Crete, from Minoan times to the present, was held on November 12, 1989, at Cal State University (CSU) in Sacramento. The symposium, sponsored by the American Hellenic Professional Society of Sacramento in cooperation with the Center for Modern Greek Studies at S.F.S.U., CSU and the A.K. Tsakopoulos Fund, was designed for those interested in the history, culture, art and archaeology of Crete, and featured a distinguished panel of experts: (from left to right) **Prof. J.K. Anderson** and **Ms. Leda Ciraolo**, both from UC Berkeley's Dept. of Classics; **Prof. Howard Goldfried**, chair of CSU Sacramento's Dept. of Anthropology; **Professor Stylianos Spyridakis**, from UC Davis' Dept. of History; and SFSU's **Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris**.

Waltl, cont'd.

three-dimensional fashion.

"Waltl Plays Waltl" is being presented by the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair/Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, and the Goethe Institute of San Francisco. Tickets are $12 general admission; $6 students and seniors. For further information, please call the Goethe Institute at 415-391-0370 or leave a message at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 415-338-1892. Tickets can be reserved by calling Performing Arts Services at 415-552-3656.

"A Tree" — By Yannis Ritsos

(The following is from **Yannis Ritsos: Selected Poems 1938-1988**, *edited and translated by Kimon Friar and Kostas Myrsiades, and just published by BOA Editions, Ltd.)*

This tree had taken root in the far side of the garden,
tall, slender, solitary—perhaps its height
betrayed a secret idea of intrusion. It never produced
either fruit or flower, only a long shadow that split the garden in
two,
and a measurement not applicable to the stooped, laden trees.
Every evening, when the glorious sunset was fading,
a strange, orange bird roosted silently in its foliage
like its only fruit—a small golden bell
in a green, enormous belfry. When the tree was cut down,
this bird flew above it with small, savage cries,
describing circles in the air, describing the sunset
the inexhaustible shape of the tree, and this small bell
rang invisibly on high, and even higher than the tree's original
height.

Samos, June, 1963
Translated by Kimon Friar

Editor's Note: In the last issue of *Mandatophoros*, we published the poem "The Lost Boys." Unfortunately, the name of the author was omitted by mistake. The poem was written by Kypros Chrysanthis.

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Recent Contributors to the MGSF

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In Memory of Nick Delakis and In Memory of James Sarris:

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WANTED!

The Center for Modern Greek Studies Office needs a computer (either an IBM compatible or a Macintosh). All donations are tax-deductible. Please call (415) 338-1892.

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Semester in Greece

(Ed. Note: The following is part of a continuing series of articles describing various college-level programs in Greece that are affiliated with the Center for Modern Greek Studies.)

The Department of Classics at San Francisco State University, together with the Athens Centre in Athens, Greece, will once again offer their **"Semester in Greece"** program in the fall semester of 1990. The program is based in Athens, with participants studying various aspects of ancient, Byzantine and modern Greek culture in formal classes and on field trips to selected sites in Greece. Open to students within the California State University system as well as other interested students and auditors, the focus of "Semester in Greece" is on Greek history, language and literature, art and archaeology.

Living and studying in another country, experiencing a different language and cultural tradition, can dramatically affect one's global outlook and individual values. **Prof. Barbara McLauchlin**, who led "Semester in Greece" during the fall of 1989, notes that study in Greece has an additional dimension: western cultural roots are based on Greek philosophy and literature, and western science on Greek mathematics. Our concepts of architecture, sculpture and poetry evolved through Greek ideals of beauty and proportion. Even our political institutions—including the very word "democracy"—are part of our inheritance from Greek civilization.

"Greece is a protean, vibrant country immersed in modern as well as Byzantine and classical traditions," says McLauchlin. "This combination manifests itself in all Greeks, where doormen are demi-gods and country women dressed in black work on handlooms while watching 'Dallas' on their TV sets. Contrasts abound: the Parthenon high on the Acropolis overlooks a cityscape of neo-classical houses and modern apartment buildings. As in all major cities, pollution and traffic jams present daily problems, but in the winding streets of Plaka, now transformed into pedestrian walkways, we can follow the pattern of the streets of ancient Athens, where Socrates and so many others lived and taught.

"It is the offering of ourselves, the blending of our lives with Greek rhythms, the symbiosis of ancient and modern, which makes living and learning in Greece an essential experience for a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us."

What further encouragement do you need?—Sign up now! The 1990 "Semester in Greece" will be led by SFSU's **Prof. Philip Stanley**, and runs from September 7 to December 15, 1990. Information regarding applications, fees, course credit, auditing, etc., can be obtained by calling Prof. Stanley at (415) 338-1295 or the Department of Classics at (415) 338-2068.

We Are Waiting

Night is falling in the neighborhood. We can't sleep.
We wait for dawn. We are waiting
for the sun to strike the tin roofs of the sheds like a powerful hammer
to strike our foreheads, our hearts,
to become sound, sound to be heard—a different sound,
because the silence is filled with gun shots from unknown points.

—Translated by Thanasis Maskaleris
from the new Ritsos anthology